

PATENT APPLICATION

MODULATORS OF ANGIOGENESIS

Inventor(s):

James B. Lorens, a citizen of the United States, residing at
7 Berenda Way
Portola Valley, CA 94028

Weiduan Xu, a citizen of the People's Republic of China, residing at
1800 22nd Ave., # 203
San Francisco, CA 94122

Robert E. Atchison, a citizen of the United States, residing at
631 O'Farrell St., #911
San Francisco, CA 94109

Jakob Bogenberger, a citizen of Germany, residing at
425 Broderick St.
San Francisco, CA 94117

Assignee:

Rigel Pharmaceuticals, Incorporated
240 East Grand Avenue
South San Francisco, CA 94080

Entity: Small business concern

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MODULATORS OF ANGIOGENESIS

CROSS-REFERENCES TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application claims priority to USSN 60/284,760, filed April 18, 2001,
 5 herein incorporated by reference in its entirety.

STATEMENT AS TO RIGHTS TO INVENTIONS MADE UNDER FEDERALLY SPONSORED RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

Not applicable.

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to regulation of angiogenesis. More particularly, the present invention is directed to nucleic acids encoding C1-angiogenesis protein, also called integrin-linked kinase associated protein ("ILKAP") and ILKAP
 15 protein, which is involved in modulation of angiogenesis. The invention further relates to methods for identifying and using agents, including small organic molecules, antibodies, peptides, cyclic peptides, nucleic acids, antisense nucleic acids, and ribozymes, that modulate angiogenesis via modulation of ILKAP and ILKAP -related cascades; as well as to the use of expression profiles and compositions in diagnosis and therapy of
 20 angiogenesis.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Angiogenesis is typically limited in a normal adult to the placenta, ovary, endometrium and sites of wound healing. However, angiogenesis, or its absence, plays
 25 an important role in the maintenance of a variety of pathological states. Some of these states are characterized by neovascularization, e.g., cancer, diabetic retinopathy, glaucoma, and age related macular degeneration. Others, e.g., stroke, infertility, heart disease, ulcers, and scleroderma, are diseases of angiogenic insufficiency. Therefore, there is a need to identify nucleic acids encoding proteins involved in the regulation of
 30 angiogenesis, to identify, e.g., modulators of angiogenesis, as well as new therapeutic and diagnostic applications.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The present invention therefore provides nucleic acids encoding C1, also called integrin-linked kinase associated protein ("ILKAP"), and C1 protein, which is involved in modulation of angiogenesis. The invention therefore provides methods of screening for compounds, e.g., small organic molecules, antibodies, nucleic acids, peptides, cyclic peptides, nucleic acids, antisense molecules, and ribozymes, that are capable of modulating angiogenesis, e.g., either activating or inhibiting angiogenesis. Therapeutic and diagnostic methods and reagents are also provided.

In one aspect, the present invention provides a method for identifying a compound that modulates angiogenesis, the method comprising the steps of: (i) contacting the compound with a ILKAP polypeptide, the polypeptide encoded by a nucleic acid that hybridizes under stringent conditions to a nucleic acid encoding a polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2; and (ii) determining the functional effect of the compound upon the ILKAP polypeptide.

In one embodiment, the functional effect is determined *in vitro*. In another embodiment, the functional effect is a physical effect. In another embodiment, the functional effect is determined by measuring ligand binding to the polypeptide. In another embodiment, the functional effect is a chemical effect. In another embodiment, the functional effect is determined by measuring phosphatase activity of the polypeptide.

In one embodiment, the polypeptide is expressed in a eukaryotic host cell. In another embodiment, the functional effect is a physical effect. In another embodiment, the functional effect is determined by measuring ligand binding to the polypeptide. In another embodiment, the functional effect is a chemical or phenotypic effect. In another embodiment, the polypeptide is expressed in a eukaryotic host cell, e.g., an endothelial cell. In another embodiment, the functional effect is determined by measuring avb3 expression, haptotaxis, or phosphatase activity.

In one embodiment, modulation is inhibition of angiogenesis.

In one embodiment, the polypeptide is recombinant. In another embodiment, the polypeptide comprises a sequence of SEQ ID NO:2.

In one embodiment, the compound is an antibody, an antisense molecule, or a small organic molecule.

In another aspect, the present invention provides a method of modulating angiogenesis in a subject, the method comprising the step of administering to the subject a therapeutically effective amount of a compound identified using the method of claim 1.

In one embodiment, the subject is a human.

In one embodiment, the compound is an antibody, an antisense molecule, or a small organic molecule.

In one embodiment, the compound inhibits angiogenesis.

5 In another aspect, the present invention provides a method of modulating angiogenesis in a subject, the method comprising the step of administering to the subject a therapeutically effective amount of a ILKAP polypeptide, the polypeptide encoded by a nucleic acid that hybridizes under stringent conditions to a nucleic acid encoding a polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2.

10 In another aspect, the present invention provides a method of modulating angiogenesis in a subject, the method comprising the step of administering to the subject a therapeutically effective amount of a nucleic acid encoding a ILKAP polypeptide, wherein the nucleic acid hybridizes under stringent conditions to a nucleic acid encoding a polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2.

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BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Figure 1: Figure 1 provides the nucleic acid (SEQ ID NO:1) and the amino acid sequence (SEQ ID NO:2) of a polypeptide involved in modulation of angiogenesis, known as "C1" or "integrin-linked kinase associated protein" (ILKAP).

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DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

Introduction

For the first time, a protein called C1, or integrin-linked kinase associated protein (ILKAP) has been identified as a protein involved in regulating angiogenesis.

25 ILKAP has been cloned using a yeast two hybrid system with integrin-linked kinase as bait and identified as a protein serine/threonine phosphatase, but no functional association with angiogenesis has been proposed or recognized (*see, e.g., Leung-Hagesteijin et al., EMBO J. 20:2160-2170 (2001)*).

30 Angiogenesis assays revealed that expression of a partial cDNA encoding ILKAP exerted a negative effect on avb3 surface expression. In addition, endothelial cells expressing the partial sequence were strongly inhibited in their haptotactic response to vitronectin, which is an indicator of an anti-angiogenic phenotype. The truncated ILKAP sequence appeared to act as a negative transdominant mutant by providing an anti-angiogenic phenotype.

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The ILKAP-encoded phosphatase and other members of the angiogenesis pathway therefore represent targets for the development of angiogenic drugs, preferably anti-angiogenic drugs, e.g., anti-angiogenic drugs for treatment of neovascularization, e.g., cancer, diabetic retinopathy, glaucoma, and age related macular degeneration, or angiogenic drugs for treatment of angiogenic insufficiency, e.g., stroke, infertility, heart disease, ulcers, and scleroderma, are diseases of angiogenic insufficiency. Modulators include small organic molecules, nucleic acids, peptides, cyclic peptides, antibodies, antisense molecules, and ribozymes. The nucleic acids and proteins of the invention are also useful for diagnostic applications, using, e.g., nucleic acid probes, oligonucleotides, and antibodies.

Definitions

By “disorder associated with angiogenesis” or “disease associated with angiogenesis” herein is meant a disease state which is marked by either an excess or a deficit of vessel development. Angiogenesis disorders associated with increased angiogenesis include, but are not limited to, cancer and proliferative diabetic retinopathy. Pathological states for which it may be desirable to increase angiogenesis include stroke, heart disease, infertility, ulcers, and scleredema. An increase in angiogenesis may also be desirable in transplantation or for artificial or *in vitro* growth of organs.

The terms “C1,” “ILKAP” or a nucleic acid encoding “C1” or “ILKAP” refer to nucleic acid and polypeptide polymorphic variants, alleles, mutants, and interspecies homologs that: (1) have an amino acid sequence that has greater than about 60% amino acid sequence identity, 65%, 70%, 75%, 80%, 85%, 90%, preferably 91%, 92%, 93%, 94%, 95%, 96%, 97%, 98% or 99% or greater amino acid sequence identity, preferably over a region of over a region of at least about 25, 50, 100, 200, 500, 1000, or more amino acids, to a polypeptide encoded by a nucleic acid of SEQ ID NO:1 or an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2; (2) specifically bind to antibodies, e.g., polyclonal antibodies, raised against an immunogen comprising an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2, immunogenic fragments thereof, and conservatively modified variants thereof; (3) specifically hybridize under stringent hybridization conditions to a nucleic acid encoding SEQ ID NO:2, e.g., a nucleic acid sequence of SEQ IN NO:1 or its complement, and conservatively modified variants thereof; (4) have a nucleic acid sequence that has greater than about 95%, preferably greater than about 96%, 97%, 98%, 99%, or higher nucleotide sequence identity, preferably over a region of at least about 25, 50, 100, 200, 500, 1000,

or more nucleotides, to SEQ ID NO:1 or its complement. A polynucleotide or polypeptide sequence is typically from a mammal including, but not limited to, primate, e.g., human; rodent, e.g., rat, mouse, hamster; cow, pig, horse, sheep, or any mammal. The nucleic acids and proteins of the invention include both naturally occurring or recombinant molecules. A nucleotide and amino acid sequence of ILKAP is found in Figure 1. In addition, GenBank Accession numbers for ILKAP nucleic acid and protein are: AY024365 (nucleic acid), AAK07736.1 (protein); NM_030768 (nucleic acid), NP_110395.1 (protein); and XM_043558 (nucleic acid), XP_043558.1 (protein). ILKAP protein or fragments thereof used in the assays of the invention has phosphatase activity, measured, e.g., with labeled proteins, gel electrophoresis, or ELISA.

The phrase “functional effects” in the context of assays for testing compounds that modulate activity of an ILKAP protein includes the determination of a parameter that is indirectly or directly under the influence of an ILKAP polypeptide, e.g., an indirect, chemical or phenotypic effect such as loss-of angiogenesis phenotype represented by a change in expression of a cell surface marker avb3 integrin, or changes in cellular proliferation, especially endothelial cell proliferation; or enzymatic activity, e.g., phosphatase activity; or, e.g., a direct, physical effect such as ligand binding or inhibition of ligand binding. A functional effect therefore includes ligand binding activity, the ability of cells to proliferate, expression in cells undergoing angiogenesis, and other characteristics of angiogenic cells. “Functional effects” include *in vitro*, *in vivo*, and *ex vivo* activities.

By “determining the functional effect” is meant assaying for a compound that increases or decreases a parameter that is indirectly or directly under the influence of an ILKAP protein, e.g., measuring physical and chemical or phenotypic effects. Such functional effects can be measured by any means known to those skilled in the art, e.g., changes in spectroscopic characteristics (e.g., fluorescence, absorbance, refractive index); hydrodynamic (e.g., shape), chromatographic; or solubility properties for the protein; ligand binding assays, e.g., binding to antibodies; measuring inducible markers or transcriptional activation of the angiogenesis protein; measuring changes in enzymatic activity, e.g., phosphatase activity; measuring changes in cell surface markers, e.g., avb3 integrin; and measuring cellular proliferation, particularly endothelial cell proliferation. Determination of the functional effect of a compound on angiogenesis can also be performed using angiogenesis assays known to those of skill in the art such as endothelial cell tube formation assays; haptotaxis assays; the chick CAM assay; the mouse corneal

assay; and assays that assess vascularization of an implanted tumor. The functional effects can be evaluated by many means known to those skilled in the art, e.g., microscopy for quantitative or qualitative measures of alterations in morphological features, e.g., tube or blood vessel formation, measurement of changes in RNA or protein levels for angiogenesis-associated sequences, measurement of RNA stability, identification of downstream or reporter gene expression (CAT, luciferase, β -gal, GFP and the like), e.g., via chemiluminescence, fluorescence, colorimetric reactions, antibody binding, inducible markers, etc.

“Inhibitors,” “activators,” and “modulators” of ILKAP polynucleotide and polypeptide sequences are used to refer to activating, inhibitory, or modulating molecules identified using *in vitro* and *in vivo* assays of ILKAP polynucleotide and polypeptide sequences. Inhibitors are compounds that, e.g., bind to, partially or totally block activity, decrease, prevent, delay activation, inactivate, desensitize, or down regulate the activity or expression of ILKAP proteins, e.g., antagonists. “Activators” are compounds that increase, open, activate, facilitate, enhance activation, sensitize, agonize, or up regulate ILKAP protein activity, agonists. Inhibitors, activators, or modulators also include genetically modified versions of ILKAP proteins, e.g., versions with altered activity, as well as naturally occurring and synthetic ligands, antagonists, agonists, antibodies, peptides, cyclic peptides, nucleic acids, antisense molecules, ribozymes, small organic molecules and the like. Such assays for inhibitors and activators include, e.g., expressing ILKAP protein *in vitro*, in cells, or cell extracts, applying putative modulator compounds, and then determining the functional effects on activity, as described above.

Samples or assays comprising ILKAP proteins that are treated with a potential activator, inhibitor, or modulator are compared to control samples without the inhibitor, activator, or modulator to examine the extent of inhibition. Control samples (untreated with inhibitors) are assigned a relative protein activity value of 100%. Inhibition of ILKAP is achieved when the activity value relative to the control is about 80%, preferably 50%, more preferably 25-0%. Activation of ILKAP is achieved when the activity value relative to the control (untreated with activators) is 110%, more preferably 150%, more preferably 200-500% (i.e., two to five fold higher relative to the control), more preferably 1000-3000% higher.

The term “test compound” or “drug candidate” or “modulator” or grammatical equivalents as used herein describes any molecule, either naturally occurring or synthetic, e.g., protein, oligopeptide (e.g., from about 5 to about 25 amino acids in

length, preferably from about 10 to 20 or 12 to 18 amino acids in length, preferably 12, 15, or 18 amino acids in length), small organic molecule, polysaccharide, lipid (e.g., a sphingolipid), fatty acid, polynucleotide, oligonucleotide, etc., to be tested for the capacity to directly or indirectly modulation lymphocyte activation. The test compound can be in the form of a library of test compounds, such as a combinatorial or randomized library that provides a sufficient range of diversity. Test compounds are optionally linked to a fusion partner, e.g., targeting compounds, rescue compounds, dimerization compounds, stabilizing compounds, addressable compounds, and other functional moieties. Conventionally, new chemical entities with useful properties are generated by identifying a test compound (called a "lead compound") with some desirable property or activity, e.g., inhibiting activity, creating variants of the lead compound, and evaluating the property and activity of those variant compounds. Often, high throughput screening (HTS) methods are employed for such an analysis.

A "small organic molecule" refers to an organic molecule, either naturally occurring or synthetic, that has a molecular weight of more than about 50 daltons and less than about 2500 daltons, preferably less than about 2000 daltons, preferably between about 100 to about 1000 daltons, more preferably between about 200 to about 500 daltons.

"Biological sample" include sections of tissues such as biopsy and autopsy samples, and frozen sections taken for histologic purposes. Such samples include blood, sputum, tissue, cultured cells, e.g., primary cultures, explants, and transformed cells, stool, urine, etc. A biological sample is typically obtained from a eukaryotic organism, most preferably a mammal such as a primate, e.g., chimpanzee or human; cow; dog; cat; a rodent, e.g., guinea pig, rat, mouse; rabbit; or a bird; reptile; or fish.

The terms "identical" or percent "identity," in the context of two or more nucleic acids or polypeptide sequences, refer to two or more sequences or subsequences that are the same or have a specified percentage of amino acid residues or nucleotides that are the same (i.e., about 70% identity, preferably 75%, 80%, 85%, 90%, 91%, 92%, 93%, 94%, 95%, 96%, 97%, 98%, 99%, or higher identity over a specified region (e.g., SEQ ID NO:1 or 2), when compared and aligned for maximum correspondence over a comparison window or designated region) as measured using a BLAST or BLAST 2.0 sequence comparison algorithms with default parameters described below, or by manual alignment and visual inspection (*see, e.g.*, NCBI web site or the like). Such sequences are then said to be "substantially identical." This definition also refers to, or may be applied to, the

compliment of a test sequence. The definition also includes sequences that have deletions and/or additions, as well as those that have substitutions. As described below, the preferred algorithms can account for gaps and the like. Preferably, identity exists over a region that is at least about 25 amino acids or nucleotides in length, or more preferably over a region that is 50-100 amino acids or nucleotides in length.

For sequence comparison, typically one sequence acts as a reference sequence, to which test sequences are compared. When using a sequence comparison algorithm, test and reference sequences are entered into a computer, subsequence coordinates are designated, if necessary, and sequence algorithm program parameters are designated. Preferably, default program parameters can be used, or alternative parameters can be designated. The sequence comparison algorithm then calculates the percent sequence identities for the test sequences relative to the reference sequence, based on the program parameters.

A "comparison window", as used herein, includes reference to a segment of any one of the number of contiguous positions selected from the group consisting of from 20 to 600, usually about 50 to about 200, more usually about 100 to about 150 in which a sequence may be compared to a reference sequence of the same number of contiguous positions after the two sequences are optimally aligned. Methods of alignment of sequences for comparison are well-known in the art. Optimal alignment of sequences for comparison can be conducted, e.g., by the local homology algorithm of Smith & Waterman, *Adv. Appl. Math.* 2:482 (1981), by the homology alignment algorithm of Needleman & Wunsch, *J. Mol. Biol.* 48:443 (1970), by the search for similarity method of Pearson & Lipman, *Proc. Nat'l. Acad. Sci. USA* 85:2444 (1988), by computerized implementations of these algorithms (GAP, BESTFIT, FASTA, and TFASTA in the Wisconsin Genetics Software Package, Genetics Computer Group, 575 Science Dr., Madison, WI), or by manual alignment and visual inspection (*see, e.g., Current Protocols in Molecular Biology* (Ausubel *et al.*, eds. 1995 supplement)).

A preferred example of algorithm that is suitable for determining percent sequence identity and sequence similarity are the BLAST and BLAST 2.0 algorithms, which are described in Altschul *et al.*, *Nuc. Acids Res.* 25:3389-3402 (1997) and Altschul *et al.*, *J. Mol. Biol.* 215:403-410 (1990), respectively. BLAST and BLAST 2.0 are used, with the parameters described herein, to determine percent sequence identity for the nucleic acids and proteins of the invention. Software for performing BLAST analyses is publicly available through the National Center for Biotechnology Information

(<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/>). This algorithm involves first identifying high scoring sequence pairs (HSPs) by identifying short words of length W in the query sequence, which either match or satisfy some positive-valued threshold score T when aligned with a word of the same length in a database sequence. T is referred to as the neighborhood word score threshold (Altschul *et al.*, *supra*). These initial neighborhood word hits act as seeds for initiating searches to find longer HSPs containing them. The word hits are extended in both directions along each sequence for as far as the cumulative alignment score can be increased. Cumulative scores are calculated using, for nucleotide sequences, the parameters M (reward score for a pair of matching residues; always > 0) and N (penalty score for mismatching residues; always < 0). For amino acid sequences, a scoring matrix is used to calculate the cumulative score. Extension of the word hits in each direction are halted when: the cumulative alignment score falls off by the quantity X from its maximum achieved value; the cumulative score goes to zero or below, due to the accumulation of one or more negative-scoring residue alignments; or the end of either sequence is reached. The BLAST algorithm parameters W , T , and X determine the sensitivity and speed of the alignment. The BLASTN program (for nucleotide sequences) uses as defaults a wordlength (W) of 11, an expectation (E) of 10, $M=5$, $N=-4$ and a comparison of both strands. For amino acid sequences, the BLASTP program uses as defaults a wordlength of 3, and expectation (E) of 10, and the BLOSUM62 scoring matrix (see Henikoff & Henikoff, *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA* 89:10915 (1989)) alignments (B) of 50, expectation (E) of 10, $M=5$, $N=-4$, and a comparison of both strands.

The terms “polypeptide,” “peptide” and “protein” are used interchangeably herein to refer to a polymer of amino acid residues. The terms apply to amino acid polymers in which one or more amino acid residue is an artificial chemical mimetic of a corresponding naturally occurring amino acid, as well as to naturally occurring amino acid polymers and non-naturally occurring amino acid polymer.

The term “amino acid” refers to naturally occurring and synthetic amino acids, as well as amino acid analogs and amino acid mimetics that function in a manner similar to the naturally occurring amino acids. Naturally occurring amino acids are those encoded by the genetic code, as well as those amino acids that are later modified, e.g., hydroxyproline, γ -carboxyglutamate, and O-phosphoserine. Amino acid analogs refers to compounds that have the same basic chemical structure as a naturally occurring amino acid, i.e., an α carbon that is bound to a hydrogen, a carboxyl group, an amino group, and an R group, e.g., homoserine, norleucine, methionine sulfoxide, methionine methyl

sulfonium. Such analogs have modified R groups (e.g., norleucine) or modified peptide backbones, but retain the same basic chemical structure as a naturally occurring amino acid. Amino acid mimetics refers to chemical compounds that have a structure that is different from the general chemical structure of an amino acid, but that functions in a manner similar to a naturally occurring amino acid.

Amino acids may be referred to herein by either their commonly known three letter symbols or by the one-letter symbols recommended by the IUPAC-IUB Biochemical Nomenclature Commission. Nucleotides, likewise, may be referred to by their commonly accepted single-letter codes.

“Conservatively modified variants” applies to both amino acid and nucleic acid sequences. With respect to particular nucleic acid sequences, conservatively modified variants refers to those nucleic acids which encode identical or essentially identical amino acid sequences, or where the nucleic acid does not encode an amino acid sequence, to essentially identical sequences. Because of the degeneracy of the genetic code, a large number of functionally identical nucleic acids encode any given protein. For instance, the codons GCA, GCC, GCG and GCU all encode the amino acid alanine. Thus, at every position where an alanine is specified by a codon, the codon can be altered to any of the corresponding codons described without altering the encoded polypeptide. Such nucleic acid variations are “silent variations,” which are one species of conservatively modified variations. Every nucleic acid sequence herein which encodes a polypeptide also describes every possible silent variation of the nucleic acid. One of skill will recognize that each codon in a nucleic acid (except AUG, which is ordinarily the only codon for methionine, and TGG, which is ordinarily the only codon for tryptophan) can be modified to yield a functionally identical molecule. Accordingly, each silent variation of a nucleic acid which encodes a polypeptide is implicit in each described sequence with respect to the expression product, but not with respect to actual probe sequences.

As to amino acid sequences, one of skill will recognize that individual substitutions, deletions or additions to a nucleic acid, peptide, polypeptide, or protein sequence which alters, adds or deletes a single amino acid or a small percentage of amino acids in the encoded sequence is a “conservatively modified variant” where the alteration results in the substitution of an amino acid with a chemically similar amino acid. Conservative substitution tables providing functionally similar amino acids are well

known in the art. Such conservatively modified variants are in addition to and do not exclude polymorphic variants, interspecies homologs, and alleles of the invention.

The following eight groups each contain amino acids that are conservative substitutions for one another: 1) Alanine (A), Glycine (G); 2) Aspartic acid (D), Glutamic acid (E); 3) Asparagine (N), Glutamine (Q); 4) Arginine (R), Lysine (K); 5) Isoleucine (I), Leucine (L), Methionine (M), Valine (V); 6) Phenylalanine (F), Tyrosine (Y), Tryptophan (W); 7) Serine (S), Threonine (T); and 8) Cysteine (C), Methionine (M) (*see, e.g., Creighton, Proteins* (1984)).

Macromolecular structures such as polypeptide structures can be described in terms of various levels of organization. For a general discussion of this organization, *see, e.g., Alberts et al., Molecular Biology of the Cell* (3rd ed., 1994) and Cantor and Schimmel, *Biophysical Chemistry Part I: The Conformation of Biological Macromolecules* (1980). “Primary structure” refers to the amino acid sequence of a particular peptide. “Secondary structure” refers to locally ordered, three dimensional structures within a polypeptide. These structures are commonly known as domains, e.g., transmembrane domains, pore domains, and cytoplasmic tail domains. Domains are portions of a polypeptide that form a compact unit of the polypeptide and are typically 15 to 350 amino acids long. Exemplary domains include domains with enzymatic activity, e.g., phosphatase domains, ligand binding domains, etc.. Typical domains are made up of sections of lesser organization such as stretches of β -sheet and α -helices. “Tertiary structure” refers to the complete three dimensional structure of a polypeptide monomer. “Quaternary structure” refers to the three dimensional structure formed by the noncovalent association of independent tertiary units. Anisotropic terms are also known as energy terms.

A particular nucleic acid sequence also implicitly encompasses “splice variants.” Similarly, a particular protein encoded by a nucleic acid implicitly encompasses any protein encoded by a splice variant of that nucleic acid. “Splice variants,” as the name suggests, are products of alternative splicing of a gene. After transcription, an initial nucleic acid transcript may be spliced such that different (alternate) nucleic acid splice products encode different polypeptides. Mechanisms for the production of splice variants vary, but include alternate splicing of exons. Alternate polypeptides derived from the same nucleic acid by read-through transcription are also encompassed by this definition. Any products of a splicing reaction, including recombinant forms of the splice products, are included in this definition.

A “label” or a “detectable moiety” is a composition detectable by spectroscopic, photochemical, biochemical, immunochemical, chemical, or other physical means. For example, useful labels include ^{32}P , fluorescent dyes, electron-dense reagents, enzymes (e.g., as commonly used in an ELISA), biotin, digoxigenin, or haptens and
 5 proteins which can be made detectable, e.g., by incorporating a radiolabel into the peptide or used to detect antibodies specifically reactive with the peptide.

The term “recombinant” when used with reference, e.g., to a cell, or nucleic acid, protein, or vector, indicates that the cell, nucleic acid, protein or vector, has been modified by the introduction of a heterologous nucleic acid or protein or the
 10 alteration of a native nucleic acid or protein, or that the cell is derived from a cell so modified. Thus, for example, recombinant cells express genes that are not found within the native (non-recombinant) form of the cell or express native genes that are otherwise abnormally expressed, under expressed or not expressed at all.

The term “heterologous” when used with reference to portions of a nucleic
 15 acid indicates that the nucleic acid comprises two or more subsequences that are not found in the same relationship to each other in nature. For instance, the nucleic acid is typically recombinantly produced, having two or more sequences from unrelated genes arranged to make a new functional nucleic acid, e.g., a promoter from one source and a coding region from another source. Similarly, a heterologous protein indicates that the
 20 protein comprises two or more subsequences that are not found in the same relationship to each other in nature (e.g., a fusion protein).

The phrase “stringent hybridization conditions” refers to conditions under which a probe will hybridize to its target subsequence, typically in a complex mixture of nucleic acids, but to no other sequences. Stringent conditions are sequence-dependent
 25 and will be different in different circumstances. Longer sequences hybridize specifically at higher temperatures. An extensive guide to the hybridization of nucleic acids is found in Tijssen, *Techniques in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology--Hybridization with Nucleic Probes*, “Overview of principles of hybridization and the strategy of nucleic acid assays” (1993). Generally, stringent conditions are selected to be about 5-10°C lower
 30 than the thermal melting point (T_m) for the specific sequence at a defined ionic strength pH. The T_m is the temperature (under defined ionic strength, pH, and nucleic concentration) at which 50% of the probes complementary to the target hybridize to the target sequence at equilibrium (as the target sequences are present in excess, at T_m , 50% of the probes are occupied at equilibrium). Stringent conditions may also be achieved

with the addition of destabilizing agents such as formamide. For selective or specific hybridization, a positive signal is at least two times background, preferably 10 times background hybridization. Exemplary stringent hybridization conditions can be as following: 50% formamide, 5x SSC, and 1% SDS, incubating at 42°C, or, 5x SSC, 1% SDS, incubating at 65°C, with wash in 0.2x SSC, and 0.1% SDS at 65°C.

Nucleic acids that do not hybridize to each other under stringent conditions are still substantially identical if the polypeptides which they encode are substantially identical. This occurs, for example, when a copy of a nucleic acid is created using the maximum codon degeneracy permitted by the genetic code. In such cases, the nucleic acids typically hybridize under moderately stringent hybridization conditions. Exemplary “moderately stringent hybridization conditions” include a hybridization in a buffer of 40% formamide, 1 M NaCl, 1% SDS at 37°C, and a wash in 1X SSC at 45°C. A positive hybridization is at least twice background. Those of ordinary skill will readily recognize that alternative hybridization and wash conditions can be utilized to provide conditions of similar stringency. Additional guidelines for determining hybridization parameters are provided in numerous reference, e.g., and *Current Protocols in Molecular Biology*, ed. Ausubel, *et al.*

For PCR, a temperature of about 36°C is typical for low stringency amplification, although annealing temperatures may vary between about 32°C and 48°C depending on primer length. For high stringency PCR amplification, a temperature of about 62°C is typical, although high stringency annealing temperatures can range from about 50°C to about 65°C, depending on the primer length and specificity. Typical cycle conditions for both high and low stringency amplifications include a denaturation phase of 90°C - 95°C for 30 sec - 2 min., an annealing phase lasting 30 sec. - 2 min., and an extension phase of about 72°C for 1 - 2 min. Protocols and guidelines for low and high stringency amplification reactions are provided, e.g., in Innis *et al.* (1990) *PCR Protocols, A Guide to Methods and Applications*, Academic Press, Inc. N.Y.).

“Antibody” refers to a polypeptide comprising a framework region from an immunoglobulin gene or fragments thereof that specifically binds and recognizes an antigen. The recognized immunoglobulin genes include the kappa, lambda, alpha, gamma, delta, epsilon, and mu constant region genes, as well as the myriad immunoglobulin variable region genes. Light chains are classified as either kappa or lambda. Heavy chains are classified as gamma, mu, alpha, delta, or epsilon, which in turn

define the immunoglobulin classes, IgG, IgM, IgA, IgD and IgE, respectively. Typically, the antigen-binding region of an antibody will be most critical in specificity and affinity of binding.

An exemplary immunoglobulin (antibody) structural unit comprises a tetramer. Each tetramer is composed of two identical pairs of polypeptide chains, each pair having one "light" (about 25 kD) and one "heavy" chain (about 50-70 kD). The N-terminus of each chain defines a variable region of about 100 to 110 or more amino acids primarily responsible for antigen recognition. The terms variable light chain (V_L) and variable heavy chain (V_H) refer to these light and heavy chains respectively.

Antibodies exist, e.g., as intact immunoglobulins or as a number of well-characterized fragments produced by digestion with various peptidases. Thus, for example, pepsin digests an antibody below the disulfide linkages in the hinge region to produce $F(ab)'_2$, a dimer of Fab which itself is a light chain joined to V_H - C_H1 by a disulfide bond. The $F(ab)'_2$ may be reduced under mild conditions to break the disulfide linkage in the hinge region, thereby converting the $F(ab)'_2$ dimer into an Fab' monomer. The Fab' monomer is essentially Fab with part of the hinge region (*see Fundamental Immunology* (Paul ed., 3d ed. 1993). While various antibody fragments are defined in terms of the digestion of an intact antibody, one of skill will appreciate that such fragments may be synthesized *de novo* either chemically or by using recombinant DNA methodology. Thus, the term antibody, as used herein, also includes antibody fragments either produced by the modification of whole antibodies, or those synthesized *de novo* using recombinant DNA methodologies (e.g., single chain Fv) or those identified using phage display libraries (*see, e.g., McCafferty et al., Nature* 348:552-554 (1990))

For preparation of antibodies, e.g., recombinant, monoclonal, or polyclonal antibodies, many technique known in the art can be used (*see, e.g., Kohler & Milstein, Nature* 256:495-497 (1975); Kozbor *et al., Immunology Today* 4: 72 (1983); Cole *et al., pp. 77-96 in Monoclonal Antibodies and Cancer Therapy*, Alan R. Liss, Inc. (1985); Coligan, *Current Protocols in Immunology* (1991); Harlow & Lane, *Antibodies, A Laboratory Manual* (1988); and Goding, *Monoclonal Antibodies: Principles and Practice* (2d ed. 1986)). The genes encoding the heavy and light chains of an antibody of interest can be cloned from a cell, e.g., the genes encoding a monoclonal antibody can be cloned from a hybridoma and used to produce a recombinant monoclonal antibody. Gene libraries encoding heavy and light chains of monoclonal antibodies can also be made from hybridoma or plasma cells. Random combinations of the heavy and light chain gene

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High throughput functional genomics assays can be used to identify modulators of angiogenesis. Such assays can monitor changes in cell surface marker expression, avb3 integrin production, proliferation, and differentiation using either cell lines or primary cells. Typically, early passage or primary endothelial cells are contacted with a cDNA or a random peptide library (encoded by nucleic acids). The cDNA library

can comprise sense, antisense, full length, and truncated cDNAs. The peptide library is encoded by nucleic acids. The effect of the cDNA or peptide library on the endothelial cells is then monitored, using an assay such as cell surface marker expression (e.g., avb3 integrin) or a phenotypic assay for angiogenesis such as migration towards an ECM (extracellular matrix) component (*see, e.g., Klemke et al., J. Cell Biol.* 4:961-972 (1998)) or endothelial cell tube formation assays, as well as other bioassays such as the chick CAM assay, the mouse corneal assay, haptotaxis assays, and assays measuring the effect of administering potential modulators on implanted tumors. The effect of the cDNA or peptide can be validated and distinguished from somatic mutations, using, e.g., regulatable expression of the nucleic acid such as expression from a tetracycline promoter. cDNAs and nucleic acids encoding peptides can be rescued using techniques known to those of skill in the art, e.g., using a sequence tags.

Proteins interacting with the peptide or with the protein encoded by the cDNA (e.g., ILKAP) can be isolated using a yeast two-hybrid system, mammalian two hybrid system, or phage display screen, etc. Targets so identified can be further used as bait in these assays to identify additional members of the angiogenesis pathway, which members are also targets for drug development (*see, e.g., Fields et al., Nature* 340:245 (1989); Vasavada *et al., Proc. Nat'l Acad. Sci. USA* 88:10686 (1991); Fearon *et al., Proc. Nat'l Acad. Sci. USA* 89:7958 (1992); Dang *et al., Mol. Cell. Biol.* 11:954 (1991); Chien *et al., Proc. Nat'l Acad. Sci. USA* 9578 (1991); and U.S. Patent Nos. 5,283,173, 5,667,973, 5,468,614, 5,525,490, and 5,637,463).

Suitable endothelial cell lines include human umbilical vein cells (*see, e.g., Jaffe et al., J. Clin. Invest.* 52:2745-2754 (1973)); human adult dermal capillary-derived cells (*see, e.g., Davison et al., In Vitro* 19:937-945 (1983)); human adipose capillary derived cells (*see, e.g., Kern et al., J. Clin Invest.* 71:1822-1829 (1983); bovine aorta (*see, e.g., Booyse et al., Thromb. Diathes. Aemorrh.* 34:825-839 (1975); and rat brain capillary derived cells (*see, e.g., Bowman et al., In Vitro* 17:353-362 (1981)). For culture of endothelial cell lines, explants, and primary cells, *see Freshney et al., Culture of Animal Cells* (3rd ed. 1994). Suitable angiogenesis cell surface markers include alphavbeta3 integrin (*see, e.g., Elicerir & Cheresh, Cancer J. Sci. Am.* 6 Supp. 3:S245-249 (2000), Maeshima *et al., J. Biol. Chem.* (June 8, 2001)).

Cell surface markers such as avb3 can be assayed using fluorescently labeled antibodies and FACS. Cell proliferation can be measured using ³H-thymidine or dye inclusion. Angiogenesis phenotype is measured by loss of phenotype observation.

cDNA libraries are made from any suitable source, preferably from endothelial cells. Libraries encoding random peptides are made according to techniques well known to those of skill in the art (*see, e.g.*, U.S. Patent No. 6,153,380, 6,114,111, and 6,180,343). Any suitable vector can be used for the cDNA and peptide libraries, including, e.g., retroviral vectors.

In a preferred embodiment, target proteins that modulate angiogenesis are identified using a high throughput cell based assay (using a microtiter plate format) and FACS screening for avb3 cell surface expression. cDNA libraries are made which include, e.g., sense, antisense, full length, and truncated cDNAs. The cDNAs are cloned into a retroviral vector. Endothelial cells are infected with the library, cultured for a short effector phase and then the cells with reduced avb3 surface levels are enriched by antibody staining and magnetic cell sorting. The enriched cell population is then sorted into microtiter plates using fluorescent antibodies and FACS. Resultant cell colonies are analyzed by immunofluorescence for reduced avb3 surface levels. Selected colonies are infected with wild type MMLV virus to rescue the proviral vector. The infectious supernatant is used to infect endothelial cells, which are subsequently analyzed for avb3 levels by FACS. The cDNA is isolated and sequenced to determine if it represents a wild type or mutated cDNA, e.g., whether the cDNA represents a negative transdominant mutant. Optionally, a marker such as GFP can be used to select for retrovirally infected cells. Using this system, a cDNA encoding ILKAP was identified as a target for anti-angiogenic drug therapy.

Isolation of nucleic acids encoding ILKAP

This invention relies on routine techniques in the field of recombinant genetics. Basic texts disclosing the general methods of use in this invention include Sambrook *et al.*, *Molecular Cloning, A Laboratory Manual* (2nd ed. 1989); Kriegler, *Gene Transfer and Expression: A Laboratory Manual* (1990); and *Current Protocols in Molecular Biology* (Ausubel *et al.*, eds., 1994)).

ILKAP nucleic acids, polymorphic variants, orthologs, and alleles that are substantially identical to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2 can be isolated using ILKAP nucleic acid probes and oligonucleotides under stringent hybridization conditions, by screening libraries. Alternatively, expression libraries can be used to clone ILKAP protein, polymorphic variants, orthologs, and alleles by detecting expressed homologs

immunologically with antisera or purified antibodies made against human ILKAP or portions thereof.

To make a cDNA library, one should choose a source that is rich in ILKAP RNA, e.g., endothelial cells. The mRNA is then made into cDNA using reverse transcriptase, ligated into a recombinant vector, and transfected into a recombinant host for propagation, screening and cloning. Methods for making and screening cDNA libraries are well known (*see, e.g., Gubler & Hoffman, Gene 25:263-269 (1983); Sambrook et al., supra; Ausubel et al., supra*).

For a genomic library, the DNA is extracted from the tissue and either mechanically sheared or enzymatically digested to yield fragments of about 12-20 kb. The fragments are then separated by gradient centrifugation from undesired sizes and are constructed in bacteriophage lambda vectors. These vectors and phage are packaged *in vitro*. Recombinant phage are analyzed by plaque hybridization as described in Benton & Davis, *Science* 196:180-182 (1977). Colony hybridization is carried out as generally described in Grunstein *et al., Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA., 72:3961-3965 (1975)*.

An alternative method of isolating ILKAP nucleic acid and its orthologs, alleles, mutants, polymorphic variants, and conservatively modified variants combines the use of synthetic oligonucleotide primers and amplification of an RNA or DNA template (*see U.S. Patents 4,683,195 and 4,683,202; PCR Protocols: A Guide to Methods and Applications (Innis et al., eds, 1990)*). Methods such as polymerase chain reaction (PCR) and ligase chain reaction (LCR) can be used to amplify nucleic acid sequences of human ILKAP directly from mRNA, from cDNA, from genomic libraries or cDNA libraries. Degenerate oligonucleotides can be designed to amplify ILKAP homologs using the sequences provided herein. Restriction endonuclease sites can be incorporated into the primers. Polymerase chain reaction or other *in vitro* amplification methods may also be useful, for example, to clone nucleic acid sequences that code for proteins to be expressed, to make nucleic acids to use as probes for detecting the presence of ILKAP encoding mRNA in physiological samples, for nucleic acid sequencing, or for other purposes. Genes amplified by the PCR reaction can be purified from agarose gels and cloned into an appropriate vector.

Gene expression of ILKAP can also be analyzed by techniques known in the art, e.g., reverse transcription and amplification of mRNA, isolation of total RNA or poly A⁺ RNA, northern blotting, dot blotting, *in situ* hybridization, RNase protection, high density polynucleotide array technology, e.g., and the like.

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Nucleic acids encoding ILKAP protein can be used with high density oligonucleotide array technology (e.g., GeneChip™) to identify ILKAP protein, orthologs, alleles, conservatively modified variants, and polymorphic variants in this invention. In the case where the homologs being identified are linked to a known disease such as angiogenesis, they can be used with GeneChip™ as a diagnostic tool in detecting the disease in a biological sample, *see, e.g.,* Gunthand *et al.*, *AIDS Res. Hum. Retroviruses* 14: 869-876 (1998); Kozal *et al.*, *Nat. Med.* 2:753-759 (1996); Matson *et al.*, *Anal. Biochem.* 224:110-106 (1995); Lockhart *et al.*, *Nat. Biotechnol.* 14:1675-1680 (1996); Gingeras *et al.*, *Genome Res.* 8:435-448 (1998); Hacia *et al.*, *Nucleic Acids Res.* 26:3865-3866 (1998).

The gene for ILKAP is typically cloned into intermediate vectors before transformation into prokaryotic or eukaryotic cells for replication and/or expression. These intermediate vectors are typically prokaryote vectors, e.g., plasmids, or shuttle vectors.

Expression in prokaryotes and eukaryotes

To obtain high level expression of a cloned gene, such as those cDNAs encoding ILKAP, one typically subclones ILKAP into an expression vector that contains a strong promoter to direct transcription, a transcription/translation terminator, and if for a nucleic acid encoding a protein, a ribosome binding site for translational initiation. Suitable bacterial promoters are well known in the art and described, e.g., in Sambrook *et al.*, and Ausubel *et al. supra.* Bacterial expression systems for expressing the ILKAP protein are available in, e.g., *E. coli*, *Bacillus sp.*, and *Salmonella* (Palva *et al.*, *Gene* 22:229-235 (1983); Mosbach *et al.*, *Nature* 302:543-545 (1983). Kits for such expression systems are commercially available. Eukaryotic expression systems for mammalian cells, yeast, and insect cells are well known in the art and are also commercially available.

Selection of the promoter used to direct expression of a heterologous nucleic acid depends on the particular application. The promoter is preferably positioned about the same distance from the heterologous transcription start site as it is from the transcription start site in its natural setting. As is known in the art, however, some variation in this distance can be accommodated without loss of promoter function.

In addition to the promoter, the expression vector typically contains a transcription unit or expression cassette that contains all the additional elements required for the expression of the ILKAP encoding nucleic acid in host cells. A typical expression

cassette thus contains a promoter operably linked to the nucleic acid sequence encoding ILKAP and signals required for efficient polyadenylation of the transcript, ribosome binding sites, and translation termination. Additional elements of the cassette may include enhancers and, if genomic DNA is used as the structural gene, introns with functional splice donor and acceptor sites.

In addition to a promoter sequence, the expression cassette should also contain a transcription termination region downstream of the structural gene to provide for efficient termination. The termination region may be obtained from the same gene as the promoter sequence or may be obtained from different genes.

The particular expression vector used to transport the genetic information into the cell is not particularly critical. Any of the conventional vectors used for expression in eukaryotic or prokaryotic cells may be used. Standard bacterial expression vectors include plasmids such as pBR322 based plasmids, pSKF, pET23D, and fusion expression systems such as MBP, GST, and LacZ. Epitope tags can also be added to recombinant proteins to provide convenient methods of isolation, e.g., c-myc.

Expression vectors containing regulatory elements from eukaryotic viruses are typically used in eukaryotic expression vectors, e.g., SV40 vectors, papilloma virus vectors, retroviral vectors, and vectors derived from Epstein-Barr virus. Other exemplary eukaryotic vectors include pMSG, pAV009/A⁺, pMTO10/A⁺, pMAMneo-5, baculovirus pDSVE, and any other vector allowing expression of proteins under the direction of the CMV promoter, SV40 early promoter, SV40 later promoter, metallothionein promoter, murine mammary tumor virus promoter, Rous sarcoma virus promoter, polyhedrin promoter, or other promoters shown effective for expression in eukaryotic cells.

Expression of proteins from eukaryotic vectors can also be regulated using inducible promoters. With inducible promoters, expression levels are tied to the concentration of inducing agents, such as tetracycline or ecdysone, by the incorporation of response elements for these agents into the promoter. Generally, high level expression is obtained from inducible promoters only in the presence of the inducing agent; basal expression levels are minimal. Inducible expression vectors are often chosen if expression of the protein of interest is detrimental to eukaryotic cells.

In one embodiment, the vectors of the invention have a regulatable promoter, e.g., tet-regulated systems and the RU-486 system (*see, e.g.,* Gossen & Bujard, *Proc. Nat'l Acad. Sci. USA* 89:5547 (1992); Oligino *et al.*, *Gene Ther.* 5:491-496 (1998); Wang *et al.*, *Gene Ther.* 4:432-441 (1997); Neering *et al.*, *Blood* 88:1147-1155 (1996);

and Rendahl *et al.*, *Nat. Biotechnol.* 16:757-761 (1998)). These impart small molecule control on the expression of the candidate target nucleic acids. This beneficial feature can be used to determine that a desired phenotype is caused by a transfected cDNA rather than a somatic mutation.

Some expression systems have markers that provide gene amplification such as thymidine kinase and dihydrofolate reductase. Alternatively, high yield expression systems not involving gene amplification are also suitable, such as using a baculovirus vector in insect cells, with a ILKAP encoding sequence under the direction of the polyhedrin promoter or other strong baculovirus promoters.

The elements that are typically included in expression vectors also include a replicon that functions in *E. coli*, a gene encoding antibiotic resistance to permit selection of bacteria that harbor recombinant plasmids, and unique restriction sites in nonessential regions of the plasmid to allow insertion of eukaryotic sequences. The particular antibiotic resistance gene chosen is not critical, any of the many resistance genes known in the art are suitable. The prokaryotic sequences are preferably chosen such that they do not interfere with the replication of the DNA in eukaryotic cells, if necessary.

Standard transfection methods are used to produce bacterial, mammalian, yeast or insect cell lines that express large quantities of ILKAP protein, which are then purified using standard techniques (*see, e.g.*, Colley *et al.*, *J. Biol. Chem.* 264:17619-17622 (1989); *Guide to Protein Purification*, in *Methods in Enzymology*, vol. 182 (Deutscher, ed., 1990)). Transformation of eukaryotic and prokaryotic cells are performed according to standard techniques (*see, e.g.*, Morrison, *J. Bact.* 132:349-351 (1977); Clark-Curtiss & Curtiss, *Methods in Enzymology* 101:347-362 (Wu *et al.*, eds, 1983).

Any of the well-known procedures for introducing foreign nucleotide sequences into host cells may be used. These include the use of calcium phosphate transfection, polybrene, protoplast fusion, electroporation, biolistics, liposomes, microinjection, plasma vectors, viral vectors and any of the other well known methods for introducing cloned genomic DNA, cDNA, synthetic DNA or other foreign genetic material into a host cell (*see, e.g.*, Sambrook *et al.*, *supra*). It is only necessary that the particular genetic engineering procedure used be capable of successfully introducing at least one gene into the host cell capable of expressing ILKAP.

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After the expression vector is introduced into the cells, the transfected cells are cultured under conditions favoring expression of ILKAP, which is recovered from the culture using standard techniques identified below.

5 Purification of ILKAP-angiogenesis polypeptides

Either naturally occurring or recombinant ILKAP can be purified for use in functional assays. Naturally occurring ILKAP can be purified, e.g., from human tissue. Recombinant ILKAP can be purified from any suitable expression system.

10 The ILKAP protein may be purified to substantial purity by standard techniques, including selective precipitation with such substances as ammonium sulfate; column chromatography, immunopurification methods, and others (*see, e.g.,* Scopes, *Protein Purification: Principles and Practice* (1982); U.S. Patent No. 4,673,641; Ausubel *et al., supra*; and Sambrook *et al., supra*).

15 A number of procedures can be employed when recombinant ILKAP protein is being purified. For example, proteins having established molecular adhesion properties can be reversibly fused to the ILKAP protein. With the appropriate ligand, ILKAP protein can be selectively adsorbed to a purification column and then freed from the column in a relatively pure form. The fused protein is then removed by enzymatic activity. Finally, ILKAP protein could be purified using immunoaffinity columns.

20 A. Purification of ILKAP from recombinant bacteria

Recombinant proteins are expressed by transformed bacteria in large amounts, typically after promoter induction; but expression can be constitutive. Promoter induction with IPTG is one example of an inducible promoter system. Bacteria are grown
25 according to standard procedures in the art. Fresh or frozen bacteria cells are used for isolation of protein.

Proteins expressed in bacteria may form insoluble aggregates ("inclusion bodies"). Several protocols are suitable for purification of ILKAP protein inclusion bodies. For example, purification of inclusion bodies typically involves the extraction,
30 separation and/or purification of inclusion bodies by disruption of bacterial cells, e.g., by incubation in a buffer of 50 mM TRIS/HCL pH 7.5, 50 mM NaCl, 5 mM MgCl₂, 1 mM DTT, 0.1 mM ATP, and 1 mM PMSF. The cell suspension can be lysed using 2-3 passages through a French Press, homogenized using a Polytron (Brinkman Instruments)

or sonicated on ice. Alternate methods of lysing bacteria are apparent to those of skill in the art (*see, e.g., Sambrook et al., supra; Ausubel et al., supra*).

If necessary, the inclusion bodies are solubilized, and the lysed cell suspension is typically centrifuged to remove unwanted insoluble matter. Proteins that formed the inclusion bodies may be renatured by dilution or dialysis with a compatible buffer. Suitable solvents include, but are not limited to urea (from about 4 M to about 8 M), formamide (at least about 80%, volume/volume basis), and guanidine hydrochloride (from about 4 M to about 8 M). Some solvents which are capable of solubilizing aggregate-forming proteins, for example SDS (sodium dodecyl sulfate), 70% formic acid, are inappropriate for use in this procedure due to the possibility of irreversible denaturation of the proteins, accompanied by a lack of immunogenicity and/or activity. Although guanidine hydrochloride and similar agents are denaturants, this denaturation is not irreversible and renaturation may occur upon removal (by dialysis, for example) or dilution of the denaturant, allowing re-formation of immunologically and/or biologically active protein. Other suitable buffers are known to those skilled in the art. Human ILKAP proteins are separated from other bacterial proteins by standard separation techniques, e.g., with Ni-NTA agarose resin.

Alternatively, it is possible to purify ILKAP protein from bacteria periplasm. After lysis of the bacteria, when the ILKAP protein exported into the periplasm of the bacteria, the periplasmic fraction of the bacteria can be isolated by cold osmotic shock in addition to other methods known to skill in the art. To isolate recombinant proteins from the periplasm, the bacterial cells are centrifuged to form a pellet. The pellet is resuspended in a buffer containing 20% sucrose. To lyse the cells, the bacteria are centrifuged and the pellet is resuspended in ice-cold 5 mM MgSO₄ and kept in an ice bath for approximately 10 minutes. The cell suspension is centrifuged and the supernatant decanted and saved. The recombinant proteins present in the supernatant can be separated from the host proteins by standard separation techniques well known to those of skill in the art.

B. *Standard protein separation techniques for purifying ILKAP proteins*

Solubility fractionation

Often as an initial step, particularly if the protein mixture is complex, an initial salt fractionation can separate many of the unwanted host cell proteins (or proteins derived from the cell culture media) from the recombinant protein of interest. The

preferred salt is ammonium sulfate. Ammonium sulfate precipitates proteins by effectively reducing the amount of water in the protein mixture. Proteins then precipitate on the basis of their solubility. The more hydrophobic a protein is, the more likely it is to precipitate at lower ammonium sulfate concentrations. A typical protocol includes adding saturated ammonium sulfate to a protein solution so that the resultant ammonium sulfate concentration is between 20-30%. This concentration will precipitate the most hydrophobic of proteins. The precipitate is then discarded (unless the protein of interest is hydrophobic) and ammonium sulfate is added to the supernatant to a concentration known to precipitate the protein of interest. The precipitate is then solubilized in buffer and the excess salt removed if necessary, either through dialysis or diafiltration. Other methods that rely on solubility of proteins, such as cold ethanol precipitation, are well known to those of skill in the art and can be used to fractionate complex protein mixtures.

Size differential filtration

The molecular weight of the ILKAP proteins can be used to isolate it from proteins of greater and lesser size using ultrafiltration through membranes of different pore size (for example, Amicon or Millipore membranes). As a first step, the protein mixture is ultrafiltered through a membrane with a pore size that has a lower molecular weight cut-off than the molecular weight of the protein of interest. The retentate of the ultrafiltration is then ultrafiltered against a membrane with a molecular cut off greater than the molecular weight of the protein of interest. The recombinant protein will pass through the membrane into the filtrate. The filtrate can then be chromatographed as described below.

Column chromatography

The ILKAP proteins can also be separated from other proteins on the basis of its size, net surface charge, hydrophobicity, and affinity for ligands. In addition, antibodies raised against proteins can be conjugated to column matrices and the proteins immunopurified. All of these methods are well known in the art. It will be apparent to one of skill that chromatographic techniques can be performed at any scale and using equipment from many different manufacturers (e.g., Pharmacia Biotech).

Assays for modulators of ILKAP protein and angiogenesis

A. Assays

Modulation of an ILKAP protein, and corresponding modulation of angiogenesis, can be assessed using a variety of *in vitro* and *in vivo* assays, including high throughput ligand binding and cell based assays, as described herein. Such assays can be used to test for inhibitors and activators of ILKAP protein, and, consequently, inhibitors and activators of angiogenesis. Such modulators of ILKAP protein are useful for treating angiogenesis disorders. Modulators of ILKAP protein are tested using either recombinant or naturally occurring ILKAP, preferably human ILKAP.

Preferably, the ILKAP protein will have the sequence displayed in SEQ ID NO:2 or a conservatively modified variant thereof. Alternatively, the ILKAP protein of the assay will be derived from a eukaryote and include an amino acid subsequence having substantial amino acid sequence identity to SEQ ID NO:2. Generally, the amino acid sequence identity will be at least 60%, preferably at least 65%, 70%, 75%, 80%, 85%, or 90%, most preferably at least 95%.

Measurement of an angiogenic or loss-of-angiogenesis phenotype on ILKAP protein or cell expressing ILKAP protein, either recombinant or naturally occurring, can be performed using a variety of assays, *in vitro*, *in vivo*, and *ex vivo*. For example, recombinant or naturally occurring ILKAP can be used *in vitro*, in a ligand binding or enzymatic function assay. ILKAP present in a cellular extract can also be used in *in vitro* assays. Cell- and animal-based *in vivo* assays can also be used to assay for ILKAP modulators. Any suitable physical, chemical, or phenotypic change that affects activity or binding can be used to assess the influence of a test compound on the polypeptide of this invention. When the functional effects are determined using intact cells or animals, one can also measure a variety of effects such as, in the case of angiogenesis associated with tumors, tumor growth, neovascularization, cell surface markers such as avb3, hormone release, transcriptional changes to both known and uncharacterized genetic markers (e.g., northern blots), changes in cell metabolism such as cell growth or pH changes, and changes in intracellular second messengers such as cGMP. In one embodiment, measurement of avb3 integrin cell surface expression and FACS sorting is used to identify modulators of angiogenesis.

In vitro assays

Assays to identify compounds with ILKAP modulating activity, e.g., anti-angiogenic activity, can be performed *in vitro*, e.g., binding assays or phosphatase activity assays. Such assays can use full length ILKAP protein or a variant thereof (*see, e.g.*, SEQ ID NO:2), or a fragment of an ILKAP protein having phosphatase activity. Purified recombinant or naturally occurring ILKAP protein can be used in the *in vitro* methods of the invention. Typically, the ILKAP protein used in the assays of the invention has phosphatase activity. In addition to purified ILKAP protein, the recombinant or naturally occurring ILKAP protein can be part of a cellular lysate. As described below, the assay can be either solid state or soluble. Preferably, the protein is bound to a solid support, either covalently or non-covalently. Often, the *in vitro* assays of the invention are ligand binding or ligand affinity assays, either non-competitive or competitive. In other cases, the *in vitro* assays measure phosphatase activity, using, e.g., labeled proteins, ELISA, or gel electrophoresis. Other *in vitro* assays include measuring changes in spectroscopic (e.g., fluorescence, absorbance, refractive index), hydrodynamic (e.g., shape), chromatographic, or solubility properties for the protein.

In one embodiment, a high throughput binding assay is performed in which the ILKAP protein or chimera comprising a fragment thereof is contacted with a potential modulator and incubated for a suitable amount of time. In one embodiment, the potential modulator is bound to a solid support, and the ILKAP protein is added. In another embodiment, the ILKAP protein is bound to a solid support. A wide variety of modulators can be used, as described below, including small organic molecules, peptides, and antibodies. A wide variety of assays can be used to identify ILKAP-modulator binding or phosphatase activity, including labeled protein-protein binding assays, electrophoretic mobility shifts, immunoassays, and the like. In some cases, the binding of the candidate modulator is determined through the use of competitive binding assays, where interference with binding of a known ligand is measured in the presence of a potential modulator. Often, either the potential modulator or the known ligand is labeled.

Cell-based *in vivo* assays

In another embodiment, ILKAP protein is expressed in a cell, and functional, e.g., physical and chemical or phenotypic, changes are assayed to identify angiogenesis modulators, preferably anti-angiogenesis compounds. Cells expressing ILKAP proteins can also be used in binding assays or enzymatic assays. Any suitable

functional effect can be measured, as described herein. For example, ligand binding, cell surface marker expression, cellular proliferation, and cell migration assays are all suitable assays to identify potential modulators using a cell based system. Suitable cells for such cell based assays include both primary endothelial cells and cell lines, as described

herein. The ILKAP protein can be naturally occurring or recombinant. Also, as described above, a fragment of ILKAP protein with phosphatase activity can be used in cell based assays.

As described above, in one embodiment, loss-of angiogenesis phenotype is measured by contacting endothelial cells comprising an ILKAP target with a potential modulator. Modulation of angiogenesis is identified by screening for cell surface marker expression, e.g., avb3 integrin expression levels, using fluorescent antibodies and FACS sorting.

In another embodiment, cellular proliferation can be measured using ^3H -thymidine incorporation or dye inclusion.

In another embodiment, cellular ILKAP polypeptide levels are determined by measuring the level of protein or mRNA. The level of ILKAP protein or proteins are measured using immunoassays such as western blotting, ELISA and the like with an antibody that selectively binds to the ILKAP polypeptide or a fragment thereof. For measurement of mRNA, amplification, e.g., using PCR, LCR, or hybridization assays, e.g., northern hybridization, RNase protection, dot blotting, are preferred. The level of protein or mRNA is detected using directly or indirectly labeled detection agents, e.g., fluorescently or radioactively labeled nucleic acids, radioactively or enzymatically labeled antibodies, and the like, as described herein.

Alternatively, ILKAP expression can be measured using a reporter gene system. Such a system can be devised using an ILKAP protein promoter operably linked to a reporter gene such as chloramphenicol acetyltransferase, firefly luciferase, bacterial luciferase, β -galactosidase and alkaline phosphatase. Furthermore, the protein of interest can be used as an indirect reporter via attachment to a second reporter such as red or green fluorescent protein (*see, e.g.,* Mistili & Spector, *Nature Biotechnology* 15:961-964 (1997)). The reporter construct is typically transfected into a cell. After treatment with a potential modulator, the amount of reporter gene transcription, translation, or activity is measured according to standard techniques known to those of skill in the art.

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In another embodiment, ILKAP phosphatase activity can be measured, using, e.g., labeled substrate proteins, gel electrophoresis, and ELISA assays.

A variety of phenotypic angiogenesis assays are known to those of skill in the art. Various models have been employed to evaluate angiogenesis (e.g., Croix *et al.*, *Science* 289:1197-1202 (2000) and Kahn *et al.*, *Amer. J. Pathol.* 156:1887-1900).
 5 Assessment of angiogenesis in the presence of a potential modulator of angiogenesis can be performed using cell-culture-based angiogenesis assays, e.g., endothelial cell tube formation assays and haptotaxis assays, as well as other animal based bioassays such as the chick CAM assay, the mouse corneal assay, and assays measuring the effect of
 10 administering potential modulators on implanted tumors.

Animal models

A number of animal based assays for angiogenesis phenotypes are known to those of skill in the art and can be used to assay for modulators of angiogenesis. for
 15 example, the chick CAM assay is described by O'Reilly, *et al.* *Cell* 79: 315-328 (1994). Briefly, 3 day old chicken embryos with intact yolks are separated from the egg and placed in a petri dish. After 3 days of incubation, a methylcellulose disc containing the protein to be tested is applied to the CAM of individual embryos. After about 48 hours of incubation, the embryos and CAMs are observed to determine whether endothelial growth
 20 has been inhibited.

The mouse corneal assay involves implanting a growth factor-containing pellet, along with another pellet containing the suspected endothelial growth inhibitor, in the cornea of a mouse and observing the pattern of capillaries that are elaborated in the cornea.

25 Angiogenesis can also be measured by determining the extent of neovascularization of a tumor. For example, carcinoma cells can be subcutaneously inoculated into athymic nude mice and tumor growth then monitored. Immunoassays using endothelial cell-specific antibodies are typically used to stain for vascularization of tumor and the number of vessels in the tumor.

30 As described above, animal models of angiogenesis find use in screening for modulators of angiogenesis. Similarly, transgenic animal technology including gene knockout technology, for example as a result of homologous recombination with an appropriate gene targeting vector, or gene overexpression, will result in the absence or increased expression of the ILKAP protein. The same technology can also be applied to

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make knock-out cells. When desired, tissue-specific expression or knockout of the ILKAP protein may be necessary. Transgenic animals generated by such methods find use as animal models of angiogenesis and are additionally useful in screening for modulators of angiogenesis.

Knock-out cells and transgenic mice can be made by insertion of a marker gene or other heterologous gene into the endogenous ILKAP gene site in the mouse genome via homologous recombination. Such mice can also be made by substituting the endogenous ILKAP with a mutated version of ILKAP, or by mutating the endogenous ILKAP, e.g., by exposure to carcinogens.

A DNA construct is introduced into the nuclei of embryonic stem cells. Cells containing the newly engineered genetic lesion are injected into a host mouse embryo, which is re-implanted into a recipient female. Some of these embryos develop into chimeric mice that possess germ cells partially derived from the mutant cell line. Therefore, by breeding the chimeric mice it is possible to obtain a new line of mice containing the introduced genetic lesion (*see, e.g., Capecchi et al., Science* 244:1288 (1989)). Chimeric targeted mice can be derived according to Hogan *et al., Manipulating the Mouse Embryo: A Laboratory Manual*, Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory (1988) and *Teratocarcinomas and Embryonic Stem Cells: A Practical Approach*, Robertson, ed., IRL Press, Washington, D.C., (1987).

B. Modulators

The compounds tested as modulators of ILKAP protein can be any small organic molecule, or a biological entity, such as a protein, e.g., an antibody or peptide, a sugar, a nucleic acid, e.g., an antisense oligonucleotide or a ribozyme, or a lipid.

Alternatively, modulators can be genetically altered versions of an ILKAP protein. Typically, test compounds will be small organic molecules, peptides, lipids, and lipid analogs.

Essentially any chemical compound can be used as a potential modulator or ligand in the assays of the invention, although most often compounds can be dissolved in aqueous or organic (especially DMSO-based) solutions are used. The assays are designed to screen large chemical libraries by automating the assay steps and providing compounds from any convenient source to assays, which are typically run in parallel (e.g., in microtiter formats on microtiter plates in robotic assays). It will be appreciated that there are many suppliers of chemical compounds, including Sigma (St. Louis, MO),

Aldrich (St. Louis, MO), Sigma-Aldrich (St. Louis, MO), Fluka Chemika-Biochemica Analytika (Buchs Switzerland) and the like.

In one preferred embodiment, high throughput screening methods involve providing a combinatorial small organic molecule or peptide library containing a large number of potential therapeutic compounds (potential modulator or ligand compounds). Such "combinatorial chemical libraries" or "ligand libraries" are then screened in one or more assays, as described herein, to identify those library members (particular chemical species or subclasses) that display a desired characteristic activity. The compounds thus identified can serve as conventional "lead compounds" or can themselves be used as potential or actual therapeutics.

A combinatorial chemical library is a collection of diverse chemical compounds generated by either chemical synthesis or biological synthesis, by combining a number of chemical "building blocks" such as reagents. For example, a linear combinatorial chemical library such as a polypeptide library is formed by combining a set of chemical building blocks (amino acids) in every possible way for a given compound length (i.e., the number of amino acids in a polypeptide compound). Millions of chemical compounds can be synthesized through such combinatorial mixing of chemical building blocks.

Preparation and screening of combinatorial chemical libraries is well known to those of skill in the art. Such combinatorial chemical libraries include, but are not limited to, peptide libraries (*see, e.g.*, U.S. Patent 5,010,175, Furka, *Int. J. Pept. Prot. Res.* 37:487-493 (1991) and Houghton *et al.*, *Nature* 354:84-88 (1991)). Other chemistries for generating chemical diversity libraries can also be used. Such chemistries include, but are not limited to: peptoids (e.g., PCT Publication No. WO 91/19735), encoded peptides (e.g., PCT Publication No. WO 93/20242), random bio-oligomers (e.g., PCT Publication No. WO 92/00091), benzodiazepines (e.g., U.S. Pat. No. 5,288,514), diversomers such as hydantoins, benzodiazepines and dipeptides (Hobbs *et al.*, *Proc. Nat. Acad. Sci. USA* 90:6909-6913 (1993)), vinylogous polypeptides (Hagihara *et al.*, *J. Amer. Chem. Soc.* 114:6568 (1992)), nonpeptidal peptidomimetics with glucose scaffolding (Hirschmann *et al.*, *J. Amer. Chem. Soc.* 114:9217-9218 (1992)), analogous organic syntheses of small compound libraries (Chen *et al.*, *J. Amer. Chem. Soc.* 116:2661 (1994)), oligocarbamates (Cho *et al.*, *Science* 261:1303 (1993)), and/or peptidyl phosphonates (Campbell *et al.*, *J. Org. Chem.* 59:658 (1994)), nucleic acid libraries (*see* Ausubel, Berger and Sambrook, all *supra*), peptide nucleic acid libraries (*see, e.g.*, U.S.

Patent 5,539,083), antibody libraries (*see, e.g., Vaughn et al., Nature Biotechnology*, 14(3):309-314 (1996) and PCT/US96/10287), carbohydrate libraries (*see, e.g., Liang et al., Science*, 274:1520-1522 (1996) and U.S. Patent 5,593,853), small organic molecule libraries (*see, e.g., benzodiazepines, Baum C&EN, Jan 18, page 33 (1993); isoprenoids, U.S. Patent 5,569,588; thiazolidinones and metathiazanones, U.S. Patent 5,549,974; pyrrolidines, U.S. Patents 5,525,735 and 5,519,134; morpholino compounds, U.S. Patent 5,506,337; benzodiazepines, 5,288,514, and the like).*

Devices for the preparation of combinatorial libraries are commercially available (*see, e.g., 357 MPS, 390 MPS, Advanced Chem Tech, Louisville KY, Symphony, Rainin, Woburn, MA, 433A Applied Biosystems, Foster City, CA, 9050 Plus, Millipore, Bedford, MA*). In addition, numerous combinatorial libraries are themselves commercially available (*see, e.g., ComGenex, Princeton, N.J., Asinex, Moscow, Ru, Tripos, Inc., St. Louis, MO, ChemStar, Ltd, Moscow, RU, 3D Pharmaceuticals, Exton, PA, Martek Biosciences, Columbia, MD, etc.*).

C. Solid State and soluble high throughput assays

In one embodiment the invention provides soluble assays using an ILKAP protein, or a cell or tissue expressing an ILKAP protein, either naturally occurring or recombinant. In another embodiment, the invention provides solid phase based *in vitro* assays in a high throughput format, where the ILKAP protein is attached to a solid phase substrate. Any one of the assays described herein can be adapted for high throughput screening, e.g., ligand binding, cellular proliferation, cell surface marker flux, e.g., avb3 integrin, phosphatase activity, etc.. In one preferred embodiment, the cell-based system using avb3 integrin modulation and FACS assays is used in a high throughput format for identifying modulators of ILKAP proteins, and therefore modulators of T cell angiogenesis.

In the high throughput assays of the invention, either soluble or solid state, it is possible to screen up to several thousand different modulators or ligands in a single day. This methodology can be used for ILKAP proteins *in vitro*, or for cell-based assays comprising an ILKAP protein. In particular, each well of a microtiter plate can be used to run a separate assay against a selected potential modulator, or, if concentration or incubation time effects are to be observed, every 5-10 wells can test a single modulator. Thus, a single standard microtiter plate can assay about 100 (e.g., 96) modulators. If 1536 well plates are used, then a single plate can easily assay from about 100- about 1500

different compounds. It is possible to assay many plates per day; assay screens for up to about 6,000, 20,000, 50,000, or more than 100,000 different compounds are possible using the integrated systems of the invention.

For a solid state reaction, the protein of interest or a fragment thereof, e.g.,
 5 an extracellular domain, or a cell comprising the protein of interest or a fragment thereof as part of a fusion protein can be bound to the solid state component, directly or indirectly, via covalent or non covalent linkage e.g., via a tag. The tag can be any of a variety of components. In general, a molecule which binds the tag (a tag binder) is fixed to a solid support, and the tagged molecule of interest is attached to the solid support by
 10 interaction of the tag and the tag binder.

A number of tags and tag binders can be used, based upon known molecular interactions well described in the literature. For example, where a tag has a natural binder, for example, biotin, protein A, or protein G, it can be used in conjunction with appropriate tag binders (avidin, streptavidin, neutravidin, the Fc region of an
 15 immunoglobulin, etc.) Antibodies to molecules with natural binders such as biotin are also widely available and appropriate tag binders; *see*, SIGMA Immunochemicals 1998 catalogue SIGMA, St. Louis MO).

Similarly, any haptenic or antigenic compound can be used in combination with an appropriate antibody to form a tag/tag binder pair. Thousands of specific
 20 antibodies are commercially available and many additional antibodies are described in the literature. For example, in one common configuration, the tag is a first antibody and the tag binder is a second antibody which recognizes the first antibody. In addition to antibody-antigen interactions, receptor-ligand interactions are also appropriate as tag and tag-binder pairs. For example, agonists and antagonists of cell membrane receptors (e.g.,
 25 cell receptor-ligand interactions such as transferrin, c-kit, viral receptor ligands, cytokine receptors, chemokine receptors, interleukin receptors, immunoglobulin receptors and antibodies, the cadherein family, the integrin family, the selectin family, and the like; *see*, e.g., Pigott & Power, *The Adhesion Molecule Facts Book I* (1993). Similarly, toxins and venoms, viral epitopes, hormones (e.g., opiates, steroids, etc.), intracellular receptors (e.g.
 30 which mediate the effects of various small ligands, including steroids, thyroid hormone, retinoids and vitamin D; peptides), drugs, lectins, sugars, nucleic acids (both linear and cyclic polymer configurations), oligosaccharides, proteins, phospholipids and antibodies can all interact with various cell receptors.

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Synthetic polymers, such as polyurethanes, polyesters, polycarbonates, polyureas, polyamides, polyethyleneimines, polyarylene sulfides, polysiloxanes, polyimides, and polyacetates can also form an appropriate tag or tag binder. Many other tag/tag binder pairs are also useful in assay systems described herein, as would be

5 apparent to one of skill upon review of this disclosure.

Common linkers such as peptides, polyethers, and the like can also serve as tags, and include polypeptide sequences, such as poly gly sequences of between about 5 and 200 amino acids. Such flexible linkers are known to persons of skill in the art. For example, poly(ethylene glycol) linkers are available from Shearwater Polymers, Inc.

10 Huntsville, Alabama. These linkers optionally have amide linkages, sulfhydryl linkages, or heterofunctional linkages.

Tag binders are fixed to solid substrates using any of a variety of methods currently available. Solid substrates are commonly derivatized or functionalized by exposing all or a portion of the substrate to a chemical reagent which fixes a chemical

15 group to the surface which is reactive with a portion of the tag binder. For example, groups which are suitable for attachment to a longer chain portion would include amines, hydroxyl, thiol, and carboxyl groups. Aminoalkylsilanes and hydroxyalkylsilanes can be used to functionalize a variety of surfaces, such as glass surfaces. The construction of such solid phase biopolymer arrays is well described in the literature. *See, e.g.,*

20 Merrifield, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* 85:2149-2154 (1963) (describing solid phase synthesis of, e.g., peptides); Geysen *et al.*, *J. Immun. Meth.* 102:259-274 (1987) (describing synthesis of solid phase components on pins); Frank & Doring, *Tetrahedron* 44:60316040 (1988) (describing synthesis of various peptide sequences on cellulose disks); Fodor *et al.*, *Science*, 251:767-777 (1991); Sheldon *et al.*, *Clinical Chemistry* 39(4):718-719 (1993);

25 and Kozal *et al.*, *Nature Medicine* 2(7):753759 (1996) (all describing arrays of biopolymers fixed to solid substrates). Non-chemical approaches for fixing tag binders to substrates include other common methods, such as heat, cross-linking by UV radiation, and the like.

30 **Antibodies to ILKAP-angiogenesis polypeptides**

In addition to the detection of ILKAP gene and gene expression using nucleic acid hybridization technology, one can also use immunoassays to detect ILKAP proteins of the invention. Such assays are useful for screening for modulators of ILKAP and angiogenesis, as well as for therapeutic and diagnostic applications. Immunoassays

can be used to qualitatively or quantitatively analyze ILKAP protein. A general overview of the applicable technology can be found in Harlow & Lane, *Antibodies: A Laboratory Manual* (1988).

5 A. Production of antibodies

Methods of producing polyclonal and monoclonal antibodies that react specifically with the ILKAP proteins are known to those of skill in the art (*see, e.g.,* Coligan, *Current Protocols in Immunology* (1991); Harlow & Lane, *supra*; Goding, *Monoclonal Antibodies: Principles and Practice* (2d ed. 1986); and Kohler & Milstein, 10 *Nature* 256:495-497 (1975). Such techniques include antibody preparation by selection of antibodies from libraries of recombinant antibodies in phage or similar vectors, as well as preparation of polyclonal and monoclonal antibodies by immunizing rabbits or mice (*see, e.g.,* Huse *et al.*, *Science* 246:1275-1281 (1989); Ward *et al.*, *Nature* 341:544-546 (1989)).

15 A number of immunogens comprising portions of ILKAP protein may be used to produce antibodies specifically reactive with ILKAP protein. For example, recombinant ILKAP protein or an antigenic fragment thereof, can be isolated as described herein. Recombinant protein can be expressed in eukaryotic or prokaryotic cells as described above, and purified as generally described above. Recombinant protein is the 20 preferred immunogen for the production of monoclonal or polyclonal antibodies. Alternatively, a synthetic peptide derived from the sequences disclosed herein and conjugated to a carrier protein can be used as an immunogen. Naturally occurring protein may also be used either in pure or impure form. The product is then injected into an animal capable of producing antibodies. Either monoclonal or polyclonal antibodies may 25 be generated, for subsequent use in immunoassays to measure the protein.

Methods of production of polyclonal antibodies are known to those of skill in the art. An inbred strain of mice (*e.g.,* BALB/C mice) or rabbits is immunized with the protein using a standard adjuvant, such as Freund's adjuvant, and a standard immunization protocol. The animal's immune response to the immunogen preparation is 30 monitored by taking test bleeds and determining the titer of reactivity to the beta subunits. When appropriately high titers of antibody to the immunogen are obtained, blood is collected from the animal and antisera are prepared. Further fractionation of the antisera to enrich for antibodies reactive to the protein can be done if desired (*see, Harlow & Lane, supra*).

Monoclonal antibodies may be obtained by various techniques familiar to those skilled in the art. Briefly, spleen cells from an animal immunized with a desired antigen are immortalized, commonly by fusion with a myeloma cell (*see*, Kohler & Milstein, *Eur. J. Immunol.* 6:511-519 (1976)). Alternative methods of immortalization include transformation with Epstein Barr Virus, oncogenes, or retroviruses, or other methods well known in the art. Colonies arising from single immortalized cells are screened for production of antibodies of the desired specificity and affinity for the antigen, and yield of the monoclonal antibodies produced by such cells may be enhanced by various techniques, including injection into the peritoneal cavity of a vertebrate host. Alternatively, one may isolate DNA sequences which encode a monoclonal antibody or a binding fragment thereof by screening a DNA library from human B cells according to the general protocol outlined by Huse, *et al.*, *Science* 246:1275-1281 (1989).

Monoclonal antibodies and polyclonal sera are collected and titered against the immunogen protein in an immunoassay, for example, a solid phase immunoassay with the immunogen immobilized on a solid support. Typically, polyclonal antisera with a titer of 10^4 or greater are selected and tested for their cross reactivity against non- ILKAP proteins, using a competitive binding immunoassay. Specific polyclonal antisera and monoclonal antibodies will usually bind with a K_d of at least about 0.1 mM, more usually at least about 1 μ M, preferably at least about 0.1 μ M or better, and most preferably, 0.01 μ M or better. Antibodies specific only for a particular ILKAP ortholog, such as human ILKAP, can also be made, by subtracting out other cross-reacting orthologs from a species such as a non-human mammal. In this manner, antibodies that bind only to ILKAP protein may be obtained.

Once the specific antibodies against ILKAP protein are available, the protein can be detected by a variety of immunoassay methods. In addition, the antibody can be used therapeutically as a ILKAP modulators. For a review of immunological and immunoassay procedures, see *Basic and Clinical Immunology* (Stites & Terr eds., 7th ed. 1991). Moreover, the immunoassays of the present invention can be performed in any of several configurations, which are reviewed extensively in *Enzyme Immunoassay* (Maggio, ed., 1980); and Harlow & Lane, *supra*.

B. Immunological binding assays

ILKAP protein can be detected and/or quantified using any of a number of well recognized immunological binding assays (*see, e.g.*, U.S. Patents 4,366,241;

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4,376,110; 4,517,288; and 4,837,168). For a review of the general immunoassays, see also *Methods in Cell Biology: Antibodies in Cell Biology*, volume 37 (Asai, ed. 1993); *Basic and Clinical Immunology* (Stites & Terr, eds., 7th ed. 1991). Immunological binding assays (or immunoassays) typically use an antibody that specifically binds to a protein or antigen of choice (in this case the ILKAP protein or antigenic subsequence thereof). The antibody (e.g., anti- ILKAP) may be produced by any of a number of means well known to those of skill in the art and as described above.

Immunoassays also often use a labeling agent to specifically bind to and label the complex formed by the antibody and antigen. The labeling agent may itself be one of the moieties comprising the antibody/antigen complex. Thus, the labeling agent may be a labeled ILKAP or a labeled anti- ILKAP antibody. Alternatively, the labeling agent may be a third moiety, such a secondary antibody, that specifically binds to the antibody/ ILKAP complex (a secondary antibody is typically specific to antibodies of the species from which the first antibody is derived). Other proteins capable of specifically binding immunoglobulin constant regions, such as protein A or protein G may also be used as the label agent. These proteins exhibit a strong non-immunogenic reactivity with immunoglobulin constant regions from a variety of species (*see, e.g., Kronval et al., J. Immunol.* 111:1401-1406 (1973); *Akerstrom et al., J. Immunol.* 135:2589-2542 (1985)). The labeling agent can be modified with a detectable moiety, such as biotin, to which another molecule can specifically bind, such as streptavidin. A variety of detectable moieties are well known to those skilled in the art.

Throughout the assays, incubation and/or washing steps may be required after each combination of reagents. Incubation steps can vary from about 5 seconds to several hours, optionally from about 5 minutes to about 24 hours. However, the incubation time will depend upon the assay format, antigen, volume of solution, concentrations, and the like. Usually, the assays will be carried out at ambient temperature, although they can be conducted over a range of temperatures, such as 10°C to 40°C.

Non-competitive assay formats

Immunoassays for detecting ILKAP in samples may be either competitive or noncompetitive. Noncompetitive immunoassays are assays in which the amount of antigen is directly measured. In one preferred “sandwich” assay, for example, the anti-

ILKAP antibodies can be bound directly to a solid substrate on which they are immobilized. These immobilized antibodies then capture ILKAP present in the test sample. ILKAP proteins thus immobilized are then bound by a labeling agent, such as a second ILKAP antibody bearing a label. Alternatively, the second antibody may lack a label, but it may, in turn, be bound by a labeled third antibody specific to antibodies of the species from which the second antibody is derived. The second or third antibody is typically modified with a detectable moiety, such as biotin, to which another molecule specifically binds, e.g., streptavidin, to provide a detectable moiety.

Competitive assay formats

In competitive assays, the amount of ILKAP protein present in the sample is measured indirectly by measuring the amount of a known, added (exogenous) ILKAP protein displaced (competed away) from an anti- ILKAP antibody by the unknown ILKAP protein present in a sample. In one competitive assay, a known amount of ILKAP protein is added to a sample and the sample is then contacted with an antibody that specifically binds to ILKAP protein. The amount of exogenous ILKAP protein bound to the antibody is inversely proportional to the concentration of ILKAP protein present in the sample. In a particularly preferred embodiment, the antibody is immobilized on a solid substrate. The amount of ILKAP protein bound to the antibody may be determined either by measuring the amount of ILKAP present in ILKAP protein/antibody complex, or alternatively by measuring the amount of remaining uncomplexed protein. The amount of ILKAP protein may be detected by providing a labeled ILKAP molecule.

A hapten inhibition assay is another preferred competitive assay. In this assay the known ILKAP protein is immobilized on a solid substrate. A known amount of anti- ILKAP antibody is added to the sample, and the sample is then contacted with the immobilized ILKAP. The amount of anti-ILKAP antibody bound to the known immobilized ILKAP is inversely proportional to the amount of ILKAP protein present in the sample. Again, the amount of immobilized antibody may be detected by detecting either the immobilized fraction of antibody or the fraction of the antibody that remains in solution. Detection may be direct where the antibody is labeled or indirect by the subsequent addition of a labeled moiety that specifically binds to the antibody as described above.

Cross-reactivity determinations

Immunoassays in the competitive binding format can also be used for crossreactivity determinations. For example, an ILKAP protein can be immobilized to a solid support. Proteins (e.g., ILKAP and homologs) are added to the assay that compete
 5 for binding of the antisera to the immobilized antigen. The ability of the added proteins to compete for binding of the antisera to the immobilized protein is compared to the ability of the ILKAP protein to compete with itself. The percent crossreactivity for the above proteins is calculated, using standard calculations. Those antisera with less than 10% crossreactivity with each of the added proteins listed above are selected and pooled.
 10 The cross-reacting antibodies are optionally removed from the pooled antisera by immunoabsorption with the added considered proteins, e.g., distantly related homologs.

The immunoabsorbed and pooled antisera are then used in a competitive binding immunoassay as described above to compare a second protein, thought to be perhaps an allele or polymorphic variant of an ILKAP protein, to the immunogen protein.
 15 In order to make this comparison, the two proteins are each assayed at a wide range of concentrations and the amount of each protein required to inhibit 50% of the binding of the antisera to the immobilized protein is determined. If the amount of the second protein required to inhibit 50% of binding is less than 10 times the amount of the ILKAP protein that is required to inhibit 50% of binding, then the second protein is said to specifically
 20 bind to the polyclonal antibodies generated to ILKAP immunogen.

Other assay formats

Western blot (immunoblot) analysis is used to detect and quantify the presence of ILKAP in the sample. The technique generally comprises separating sample
 25 proteins by gel electrophoresis on the basis of molecular weight, transferring the separated proteins to a suitable solid support, (such as a nitrocellulose filter, a nylon filter, or derivatized nylon filter), and incubating the sample with the antibodies that specifically bind ILKAP. The anti- ILKAP antibodies specifically bind to the ILKAP on the solid support. These antibodies may be directly labeled or alternatively may be subsequently
 30 detected using labeled antibodies (e.g., labeled sheep anti-mouse antibodies) that specifically bind to the anti-ILKAP antibodies.

Other assay formats include liposome immunoassays (LIA), which use liposomes designed to bind specific molecules (e.g., antibodies) and release encapsulated

reagents or markers. The released chemicals are then detected according to standard techniques (*see Monroe et al., Amer. Clin. Prod. Rev. 5:34-41 (1986)*).

Reduction of non-specific binding

One of skill in the art will appreciate that it is often desirable to minimize non-specific binding in immunoassays. Particularly, where the assay involves an antigen or antibody immobilized on a solid substrate it is desirable to minimize the amount of non-specific binding to the substrate. Means of reducing such non-specific binding are well known to those of skill in the art. Typically, this technique involves coating the substrate with a proteinaceous composition. In particular, protein compositions such as bovine serum albumin (BSA), nonfat powdered milk, and gelatin are widely used with powdered milk being most preferred.

Labels

The particular label or detectable group used in the assay is not a critical aspect of the invention, as long as it does not significantly interfere with the specific binding of the antibody used in the assay. The detectable group can be any material having a detectable physical or chemical property. Such detectable labels have been well-developed in the field of immunoassays and, in general, most any label useful in such methods can be applied to the present invention. Thus, a label is any composition detectable by spectroscopic, photochemical, biochemical, immunochemical, electrical, optical or chemical means. Useful labels in the present invention include magnetic beads (e.g., DYNABEADSTM), fluorescent dyes (e.g., fluorescein isothiocyanate, Texas red, rhodamine, and the like), radiolabels (e.g., ³H, ¹²⁵I, ³⁵S, ¹⁴C, or ³²P), enzymes (e.g., horse radish peroxidase, alkaline phosphatase and others commonly used in an ELISA), and colorimetric labels such as colloidal gold or colored glass or plastic beads (e.g., polystyrene, polypropylene, latex, etc.).

The label may be coupled directly or indirectly to the desired component of the assay according to methods well known in the art. As indicated above, a wide variety of labels may be used, with the choice of label depending on sensitivity required, ease of conjugation with the compound, stability requirements, available instrumentation, and disposal provisions.

Non-radioactive labels are often attached by indirect means. Generally, a ligand molecule (e.g., biotin) is covalently bound to the molecule. The ligand then binds

to another molecules (e.g., streptavidin) molecule, which is either inherently detectable or covalently bound to a signal system, such as a detectable enzyme, a fluorescent compound, or a chemiluminescent compound. The ligands and their targets can be used in any suitable combination with antibodies that recognize ILKAP protein, or secondary antibodies that recognize anti- ILKAP.

The molecules can also be conjugated directly to signal generating compounds, e.g., by conjugation with an enzyme or fluorophore. Enzymes of interest as labels will primarily be hydrolases, particularly phosphatases, esterases and glycosidases, or oxidotases, particularly peroxidases. Fluorescent compounds include fluorescein and its derivatives, rhodamine and its derivatives, dansyl, umbelliferone, etc. Chemiluminescent compounds include luciferin, and 2,3-dihydrophthalazinediones, e.g., luminol. For a review of various labeling or signal producing systems that may be used, see U.S. Patent No. 4,391,904.

Means of detecting labels are well known to those of skill in the art. Thus, for example, where the label is a radioactive label, means for detection include a scintillation counter or photographic film as in autoradiography. Where the label is a fluorescent label, it may be detected by exciting the fluorochrome with the appropriate wavelength of light and detecting the resulting fluorescence. The fluorescence may be detected visually, by means of photographic film, by the use of electronic detectors such as charge coupled devices (CCDs) or photomultipliers and the like. Similarly, enzymatic labels may be detected by providing the appropriate substrates for the enzyme and detecting the resulting reaction product. Finally simple colorimetric labels may be detected simply by observing the color associated with the label. Thus, in various dipstick assays, conjugated gold often appears pink, while various conjugated beads appear the color of the bead.

Some assay formats do not require the use of labeled components. For instance, agglutination assays can be used to detect the presence of the target antibodies. In this case, antigen-coated particles are agglutinated by samples comprising the target antibodies. In this format, none of the components need be labeled and the presence of the target antibody is detected by simple visual inspection.

Gene therapy

The present invention provides the nucleic acids of ILKAP-angiogenesis associated protein for the transfection of cells *in vitro* and *in vivo*. These nucleic acids

can be inserted into any of a number of well-known vectors for the transfection of target cells and organisms as described below. The nucleic acids are transfected into cells, *ex vivo* or *in vivo*, through the interaction of the vector and the target cell. The nucleic acid, under the control of a promoter, then expresses a ILKAP protein of the present invention, thereby mitigating the effects of absent, partial inactivation, or abnormal expression of the ILKAP gene, particularly as it relates to angiogenesis. The compositions are administered to a patient in an amount sufficient to elicit a therapeutic response in the patient. An amount adequate to accomplish this is defined as “therapeutically effective dose or amount.”

Such gene therapy procedures have been used to correct acquired and inherited genetic defects, cancer, and other diseases in a number of contexts. The ability to express artificial genes in humans facilitates the prevention and/or cure of many important human diseases, including many diseases which are not amenable to treatment by other therapies (for a review of gene therapy procedures, *see* Anderson, *Science* 256:808-813 (1992); Nabel & Felgner, *TIBTECH* 11:211-217 (1993); Mitani & Caskey, *TIBTECH* 11:162-166 (1993); Mulligan, *Science* 926-932 (1993); Dillon, *TIBTECH* 11:167-175 (1993); Miller, *Nature* 357:455-460 (1992); Van Brunt, *Biotechnology* 6(10):1149-1154 (1998); Vigne, *Restorative Neurology and Neuroscience* 8:35-36 (1995); Kremer & Perricaudet, *British Medical Bulletin* 51(1):31-44 (1995); Haddada *et al.*, in *Current Topics in Microbiology and Immunology* (Doerfler & Böhm eds., 1995); and Yu *et al.*, *Gene Therapy* 1:13-26 (1994)).

The nucleic acids of the invention can also be used to make transgenic animals, such as transgenic mice, either by knock-out or overexpression. Such animals are useful, e.g., for testing modulators of angiogenesis.

Pharmaceutical compositions and administration

Pharmaceutically acceptable carriers are determined in part by the particular composition being administered (e.g., nucleic acid, protein, modulatory compounds or transduced cell), as well as by the particular method used to administer the composition. Accordingly, there are a wide variety of suitable formulations of pharmaceutical compositions of the present invention (*see, e.g., Remington's Pharmaceutical Sciences*, 17th ed., 1989). Administration can be in any convenient manner, e.g., by injection, oral administration, inhalation, transdermal application, or rectal administration.

Formulations suitable for oral administration can consist of (a) liquid solutions, such as an effective amount of the packaged nucleic acid suspended in diluents, such as water, saline or PEG 400; (b) capsules, sachets or tablets, each containing a predetermined amount of the active ingredient, as liquids, solids, granules or gelatin; (c) suspensions in an appropriate liquid; and (d) suitable emulsions. Tablet forms can include one or more of lactose, sucrose, mannitol, sorbitol, calcium phosphates, corn starch, potato starch, microcrystalline cellulose, gelatin, colloidal silicon dioxide, talc, magnesium stearate, stearic acid, and other excipients, colorants, fillers, binders, diluents, buffering agents, moistening agents, preservatives, flavoring agents, dyes, disintegrating agents, and pharmaceutically compatible carriers. Lozenge forms can comprise the active ingredient in a flavor, e.g., sucrose, as well as pastilles comprising the active ingredient in an inert base, such as gelatin and glycerin or sucrose and acacia emulsions, gels, and the like containing, in addition to the active ingredient, carriers known in the art.

The compound of choice, alone or in combination with other suitable components, can be made into aerosol formulations (i.e., they can be “nebulized”) to be administered via inhalation. Aerosol formulations can be placed into pressurized acceptable propellants, such as dichlorodifluoromethane, propane, nitrogen, and the like.

Formulations suitable for parenteral administration, such as, for example, by intraarticular (in the joints), intravenous, intramuscular, intradermal, intraperitoneal, and subcutaneous routes, include aqueous and non-aqueous, isotonic sterile injection solutions, which can contain antioxidants, buffers, bacteriostats, and solutes that render the formulation isotonic with the blood of the intended recipient, and aqueous and non-aqueous sterile suspensions that can include suspending agents, solubilizers, thickening agents, stabilizers, and preservatives. In the practice of this invention, compositions can be administered, for example, by intravenous infusion, orally, topically, intraperitoneally, intravesically or intrathecally. Parenteral administration and intravenous administration are the preferred methods of administration. The formulations of commends can be presented in unit-dose or multi-dose sealed containers, such as ampules and vials.

Injection solutions and suspensions can be prepared from sterile powders, granules, and tablets of the kind previously described. Cells transduced by nucleic acids for *ex vivo* therapy can also be administered intravenously or parenterally as described above.

The dose administered to a patient, in the context of the present invention should be sufficient to effect a beneficial therapeutic response in the patient over time.

The dose will be determined by the efficacy of the particular vector employed and the condition of the patient, as well as the body weight or surface area of the patient to be treated. The size of the dose also will be determined by the existence, nature, and extent of any adverse side-effects that accompany the administration of a particular vector, or transduced cell type in a particular patient.

In determining the effective amount of the vector to be administered in the treatment or prophylaxis of conditions owing to diminished or aberrant expression of the ILKAP protein, the physician evaluates circulating plasma levels of the vector, vector toxicities, progression of the disease, and the production of anti-vector antibodies. In general, the dose equivalent of a naked nucleic acid from a vector is from about 1 μ g to 100 μ g for a typical 70 kilogram patient, and doses of vectors which include a retroviral particle are calculated to yield an equivalent amount of therapeutic nucleic acid.

For administration, compounds and transduced cells of the present invention can be administered at a rate determined by the LD-50 of the inhibitor, vector, or transduced cell type, and the side-effects of the inhibitor, vector or cell type at various concentrations, as applied to the mass and overall health of the patient. Administration can be accomplished via single or divided doses.

EXAMPLES

The following examples are offered to illustrate, but not to limit the claimed invention.

Example 1: Identification of a gene involved in modulation of angiogenesis

A genetic screening approach was designed to identify genes involved in regulating angiogenesis. cDNA libraries constructed in retroviral vectors were transduced into early passage endothelial cells. Cell clones were isolated, which displayed a phenotype that correlated with downregulation of angiogenesis *in vivo* (i.e., downregulation of the cell surface marker *abv3* integrin). The loss-of-angiogenesis phenotype was demonstrated to be dependent on a retrovirally-encoded gene by a phenotypic transfer assay. A candidate retrovirally-encoded gene sequence was recovered by PCR. This clone, designated C1, encoded a partial PP2C-like phosphatase domain (see Figure 1). BLAST analysis revealed a single Genbank entry without correlated function. Subsequently, two more Genbank entries were identified, one of which designated the C1 sequence as "integrin-linked kinase associated protein"

(ILKAP). ILKAP was isolated in a yeast two-hybrid screen baited with integrin-linked kinase (ILK1) and identified as a protein serine/threonine phosphatase of the PP2C family (Leung-Hagesteijn *et al.*, *EMBO J.* 20:2160-2170 (2001)).

5 The ILKAP sequence was tested in relevant angiogenesis assays and demonstrated to exert a negative effect on avb3 surface expression. Furthermore, ILKAP-expressing endothelial cells were assayed for migration towards a ECM component (haptotaxis) (*see, e.g., Klemke et al., J. Cell Biol.* 4:961-972 (1998)). The ILKAP-expression cells were strongly inhibited in their haptotactic response, an indicator of an anti-angiogenic phenotype. The ILKAP nucleic acid and encoded protein therefore
10 represents a drug target for anti-angiogenic therapies.

It is understood that the examples and embodiments described herein are for illustrative purposes only and that various modifications or changes in light thereof will be suggested to persons skilled in the art and are to be included within the spirit and
15 purview of this application and scope of the appended claims. All publications, patents, and patent applications cited herein are hereby incorporated by reference in their entirety for all purposes.

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